

POST-OPERATIVE CARE: SOFT TISSUE



Crate Guidelines:

Post-operative recovery period is essential to a successful recovery following a surgical procedure. Activity restriction is necessary for appropriate healing and will require a crate or small confined area. Acquiring an appropriate crate before surgery is highly recommended. If your pet is not accustomed to spending time in a crate, we recommend feeding all meals and treats in the kennel to encourage them to associate the area with a good place (den). The crate should be large enough to allow them to lay comfortably and turn around. Your pet will need to wear a **cone collar** during the first 10-14 days after surgery, so will need adequate room in the crate. Your pet is allowed to spend time with you outside of the crate as long as they are on a leash and well-controlled.

Dog Crate Sizing Guide: we recommend choosing 1-2 sizes larger than listed below for your pet to allow more space to turn around and accommodate a cone-collar

Extra small crate 1-10 lbs
22"L x 13"W x 16"H

Small crate 11-25 lbs
24"L x 18"W x 21"H

Medium crate 26-40 lbs
30"L x 21"W x 24"H
30"L x 19"W x 21"H

Large crate 41-70 lbs
36"L x 24"W x 27"H
36"L x 23"W x 25"H

Extra Large crate 71-90 lbs
42"L x 28"W x 31"H

XXL crate 90+ lbs
46"L x 30"W x 33"H



For felines that need to be activity restricted, we recommend a large crate that can accommodate a litter box. They should always have access to water.

Medications:

Patients are typically released from hospital with pain, anti-inflammatory, and sedation and in some cases antibiotic medications. The pain and anti-inflammatory medications are given 7-10 days after surgery and typically discontinued unless instructed otherwise. It is common for patients to be constipated following surgery and often do not have a bowel movement for 2-3 days. We recommend giving unsweetened **canned pumpkin** with each meal for 5-7 days following surgery. Oral sedatives will be given 2-3 times a day and highly recommended throughout your pet's recovery. As patients begin to heal and feel better, their risk of injury due to over-activity increases and oral sedatives decrease this risk. It will also assist in preventing anxiety or agitation while being confined and restricted.

Walking Guidelines:

For patients that have had a surgical procedure, it is important that they not run, jump, or slip. This could result in damage to the surgery site. When walking your pet outside for bathroom breaks, always have them on a leash.

Incision Care:

It is important to keep the incision(s) clean and dry. If your pet has soiled the incision(s), please gently clean the area(s) with water or baby wipes. If there is prolonged contact of feces or urine on the skin, infection or irritation can occur. Please ensure your pet is always wearing their cone collar to prevent licking or trauma to the skin incisions and surgical sites. Licking can cause infections or trauma to the skin that can result in further medical treatment and costs not originally covered in your surgical invoice.